

DERRICK VAN ORDEN
THIRD DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
& INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY:
CHAIRMAN



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

1513 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4903
(202) 225-5506

210 7TH STREET S, SUITE 204
LA CROSSE, WI 54601
(608) 782-2558

500 S. BARSTOW STREET, SUITE B7
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701
(715) 831-9214

February 5, 2024

Governor Evers,

Following the announcement of the closure of the Hospital Sister's Health System's (HSHS) Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's hospitals in Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls, and Prevea Health's facilities throughout the Chippewa Valley, I have been in constant contact with all relevant stakeholders to develop solutions for the 1,400 western Wisconsinites that are out of a job and rural Wisconsin families that will shortly be without medical care.

Rural communities, like those in the Third Congressional District, are continuously left on the sidelines when it comes to accessible healthcare, and these hospital closures will only make it more difficult for Wisconsinites to get the medical care they need.

Specifically, the closures of these two hospitals and the Prevea clinics will result in the loss of:

- two of four emergency rooms;
- rural and urban EMS services;
- over 100 medical beds including 15 critical care unit beds;
- a cancer center with over 400 patients, 100 of which are currently undergoing active treatment;
- the only inpatient adolescent psychiatric unit in western Wisconsin;
- a wound care clinic with hyperbaric capabilities and over 175 current patients;
- a birthing center that will serve an anticipated 900-1,200 pregnant mothers; and
- a dialysis treatment center with 50 patients.

This is not an exhaustive list, and the impact will have secondary and tertiary effects on the community at large, including in our neighboring states of Minnesota and Michigan.

With other hospitals in the area at or near capacity, these closures present a threat to public health and safety in the community.

This is truly a dire situation and I want to keep all available options on the table in an attempt to mitigate the negative consequences of these closures. This is why I am asking you to join me in requesting all available resources, state and federal, be made available to the state of Wisconsin.

I will do everything in my capacity as the Congressional Representative of my constituents to ensure rural Wisconsin is not forgotten and people have access to care. I hope you will join me and work in close coordination in doing so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "D. Van Orden", enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Derrick Van Orden
Member of Congress